

What is claimed is:

1. An image display apparatus comprising:  
a control signal input device that inputs a  
5 control signal;  
an operation signal output device that outputs an  
operation signal to an external signal source;  
a memory device that stores display screen  
information; and  
10 a control signal switching device that selectively  
switches use of the control signal from said control  
signal input device between a control signal for the  
display screen information stored in said memory device  
and the operation signal to be outputted from said  
15 operation signal output device.
2. An image display apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said control signal switching device  
selectively switches the use of the control signal in a  
manner responsive to coordinates of a position in a  
20 display area in which the display screen information  
stored in said memory device is displayed, the position  
being indicated by the control signal.
3. An image display apparatus according to claim  
1, further comprising an image signal input device that  
25 inputs an image signal from the external signal source,  
and an image synthesis device that synthesizes the  
display screen information stored in said memory device

and a signal based on the image signal inputted by said image signal input device.

4. An image display apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said memory device has a plurality of areas  
5 which comprise at least an area storing information based on the control signal inputted by said control signal input device, an area storing information based on the image signal inputted by said image signal input device, and information based on a signal obtained by  
10 synthesis by said image synthesis device.

5. An image display apparatus comprising:  
a control signal input device that inputs a control signal;  
an image signal input device that inputs an image  
15 signal from an external signal source;  
an image signal processing device that processes the inputted image signal;  
an image display device that displays an image based on the image signal processed by said image  
20 signal processing device, on a display screen;  
an operation signal output device that outputs an operation signal to the external signal source;  
a memory device that stores display screen information which can be rewritten by the control  
25 signal from said control signal input device;  
an image synthesis device that synthesizes the display screen information stored in said memory device

and the image signal processed by said image signal processing device; and

a control signal switching device that selectively switches use of the control signal from said control signal input device between a signal for rewriting the display screen information stored in said memory device and the operation signal to be outputted from said operation signal output device, according to an instruction from the control signal input device concerning a display area in which the display screen information stored in said memory device is displayed and a display area in which the image signal processed by said image signal processing device is displayed, said display areas being obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis device.

6. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said image signal processing device includes a resolution conversion device that converts resolution of the inputted image signal.

7. An image display apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a second memory device that stores the image signal of which resolution has been converted by said resolution conversion device, and

wherein said image synthesis device synthesizes the display screen information stored in said memory device and the image signal stored in said second memory device.

8. An image display apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control signal switching device converts display coordinates of a display area after resolution conversion on the display screen to  
5 coordinates corresponding to an image before resolution conversion, before sending the operation signal to said operation signal output device.

9. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a third memory device that stores  
10 image information obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis device.

10. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a transfer device that transfers image information obtained by synthesis by said image  
15 synthesis device to an external device.

11. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control signal switching device changes a boundary between the display area in which the display screen information stored in said memory device  
20 is displayed and the display area in which the image signal processed by said image signal processing device is displayed on an image synthesized by said image synthesis device, based on the control signal from said control signal input device.

25 12. An image display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control signal input device comprises an input device that operates in a manner interlocked

with a cursor displayed on the display screen.

13. An image display apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said control signal input device comprises a digitizer pen that virtually plots an image on the display screen of said image display device.

14. An information processing apparatus using the image display apparatus according to claim 1.

15. An information processing apparatus using the image display apparatus according to any one of claims 5 to 13.

16. An image display method comprising:  
a control signal-inputting step of inputting a control signal;  
an operation signal-outputting step of outputting an operation signal to an external signal source;  
a memory step for storing display screen information; and  
a control signal-switching step of selectively switching use of the control signal inputted at said control signal-inputting step between a control signal for the display screen information stored at said memory step and the operation signal to be outputted at said operation signal-outputting step.

17. An image display method comprising:  
a control signal-inputting step of inputting a control signal;  
an image signal-inputting step of inputting an

image signal from an external signal source;

an image signal-processing step of processing the inputted image signal;

an image display step of displaying an image based  
5 on the image signal processed at said image signal-processing step, on a display screen;

an operation signal-outputting step of outputting an operation signal to the external signal source;

a memory step of storing display screen  
10 information which can be rewritten by the control signal inputted at said control signal-inputting step;

an image-synthesizing step of synthesizing the display screen information stored at said memory step and the image signal processed at said image signal-  
15 processing step; and

a control signal-switching step of selectively switching use of the control signal inputted at said control signal-inputting step between a signal for rewriting the display screen information stored at said  
20 memory step and the operation signal to be outputted at said operation signal-outputting step, according to an instruction at said control signal-inputting step concerning a display area in which the display screen information stored at said memory step is displayed and  
25 a display area in which the image signal processed at said image signal-processing step, said display areas being obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis

step.

18. An image display method according to claim 17,  
wherein said image signal-processing step includes a  
resolution-converting step of converting resolution of  
5 the inputted image signal.

19. An image display method according to claim 18,  
further comprising a second memory step of storing the  
image signal of which the resolution has been converted  
at said resolution-converting step, and  
10 wherein the display screen information stored at  
said memory step and the image signal stored at said  
second memory step are synthesized at said image-  
synthesizing step.

20. An image display method according to claim 18,  
15 wherein said control signal-switching step includes  
converting display coordinates of a display area after  
resolution conversion on the display screen to  
coordinates corresponding to an image before resolution  
conversion, before outputting the operation signal at  
20 said operation signal-outputting step.

21. An image display method according to claim 17,  
further comprising a third memory step of storing image  
information obtained by synthesis at said image-  
synthesizing step.

22. An image display method according to claim 17,  
25 further comprising a transfer step of transferring  
image information obtained by synthesis at said image-

synthesizing step to an external device.

23. An image display method according to claim 17,  
wherein said control signal-switching step includes  
changing a boundary between the display area in which  
5 the display screen information stored at said memory  
step is displayed and the display area in which the  
image signal processed at said image-processing step is  
displayed, on an image synthesized at said image-  
synthesizing step, based on the control signal inputted  
10 at said control signal-inputting step.

24. A computer-readable storage medium storing a  
program for executing an image display method,

the program comprising:

a control signal input module for inputting a  
15 control signal from a control signal input device;  
an operation signal output module for outputting  
an operation signal to an external signal source;  
a memory module for storing display screen  
information; and

20 a control signal switching module for selectively  
switching use of the control signal inputted by said  
control signal input module between a control signal  
for the display screen information stored by said  
memory module and the operation signal to be outputted  
25 by said operation signal output module.

25. A computer-readable storage medium storing a  
program for executing an image display method,



the program comprising:

a control signal input module for inputting a control signal from a control signal input device;

an image signal input module for inputting an  
5 image signal from an external signal source;

an image signal processing module for processing the inputted image signal;

an image display module for displaying an image based on the image signal processed by said image  
10 signal processing module, on a display screen;

an operation signal output module for outputting an operation signal to the external signal source;

a memory module for storing display screen information which can be rewritten by the control  
15 signal inputted by said control signal input module;

an image synthesis module for synthesizing the display screen information stored by said memory module and the image signal processed by said image signal processing module; and

20 a control signal switching module for selectively switching use of the control signal inputted by said control signal input module between a signal for rewriting the display screen information stored by said memory module and the operation signal to be outputted  
25 by said operation signal output module, according to an instruction by the control signal input module concerning a display area in which the display screen

information stored by said memory module is displayed and a display area in which the image signal processed by said image signal processing module is displayed, said display areas being obtained by synthesis by said  
5 image synthesis module.

26. A storage medium according to claim 25, wherein said image signal processing module includes a resolution conversion module for converting resolution of the inputted image signal.

10 27. A storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the program further comprises a second memory module for storing the image signal of which the resolution has been converted by said resolution conversion module, and

15 wherein said image synthesis module synthesizes the display screen information stored by said memory module and the image signal stored by said second memory module.

28. A storage medium according to claim 26,  
20 wherein said control signal switching module converts display coordinates of a display area after resolution conversion on the display screen to coordinates corresponding to an image before resolution conversion, before sending the operation signal to said operation  
25 signal output module.

29. A storage medium according to claim 25, wherein said image display module further comprises a

third memory module for storing image information  
obtained by synthesis by said image synthesis module.

30. A storage medium according to claim 25,  
wherein the program further comprises a transfer module  
5 for transferring image information obtained by  
synthesis by said image synthesis module to an external  
device.

31. A storage medium according to claim 25,  
wherein said control signal input module changes a  
10 boundary between the display area in which the display  
screen information stored by said memory module is  
displayed and the display area in which the image  
signal processed by said image processing module is  
displayed on an image synthesized by said image  
15 synthesis module based on the control signal inputted  
by said control signal input module.